



City & County
of Honolulu



Message from Director

MO'OLELO PĀKA (PARK STORY)

Quarterly newsletter from the City and County of
Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation
January through March 2020

I hope everyone is having
an amazing start to 2020! Here at

Parks & Rec, we started the year by

opening some exciting new facilities. Those included two new off-leash dog parks and a groundbreaking for another in Central O'ahu. Not far from that future dog park, we officially opened our first designated disc golf course at Kupuohi Neighborhood Park. The disc golf course and the Kalo Place Mini Park dog park were thanks to fantastic public-private partnerships with the Honolulu Disc Golf Association and Hawaiian Humane Society respectively. It is always exciting to open up new facilities, as we continue to adapt our parks to accommodate evolving recreational trends. Another great example of this has been the widespread lining of pickleball courts as part of Mayor Caldwell's Kākou for Parks Program. To date, we have lined 87 courts at 52 park locations around the island, with the program itself having renovated 170 different parks through improvements to their play apparatus, play courts, and/or comfort stations. This program has been so successful, ambitious, and unlike any other park renovation initiative I have seen anywhere in the country. It is a true reflection of our goal; to improve the facilities that we have while looking ahead to see how we can meet the future needs of our growing communities. Mahalo for being part of this positive progress!

UPCOMING PARKS & REC EVENTS!

11th Kualoa/Hakipu'u Canoe Fest: *Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kualoa Regional Park near Campground A*

Ocean-goers of all shapes and sizes are invited to venture out to the birthplace of Hōkūle'a to celebrate and continue the Polynesian voyaging tradition. Event includes canoe rides, educational booths, and other paddling experiences for free.

93rd Annual Lei Day Celebration: *Friday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand*

Recognizing the beauty of Hawai'i's iconic symbol of aloha, the lei, continues during our annual celebration event. Join us to experience Hawaiian culture through mele, hula, and lei-making. The Lei Court Investiture begins at 11 a.m. with the Lei Contest exhibit open for public viewing at 1 p.m.

"We add quality to life!"



New Off-leash Dog Parks Aplenty

Jan. 6

On Jan. 6 [we opened an off-leash dog park at Kalo Place Mini Park](#), thanks to the Hawaiian Humane Society, while on Feb. 21 [we officially opened another at Mother Waldron Neighborhood Park](#). In between those openings, we broke ground on what will be our [8th off-leash dog park at the Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park](#).



Joe Kapule Jr. Softball Field

Jan. 11

Remembering an inspiring softball coach & community mentor, the softball field at Waimānalo Beach Park was renamed to honor the late Joe Kapule Jr., [with the signs installed during a ceremony with his family](#).



First City Disc Golf Course

Feb. 8

The first designated disc golf course on City [property was blessed and opened at Kupuohi Neighborhood Park](#) in Waipahū's Village Park. Mahalo to the Honolulu Disc Golf Association for gifting the course baskets.



Senior Valentines Dance & Award

Feb. 11

Hundreds of kūpuna showed that ["Love Will Keep us Together"](#) during the [51st year of this fantastic event](#). Attending City Councilmembers had so much fun [that they honored the event organizers](#) the following week. Great job!



Mānoa Sakura Tree Planting

Feb. 21

In the continued effort to determine the best variety of cherry blossom trees (sakura) to thrive in Hawai'i, three sakura originating from the Koichi Prefecture of Japan [were planted near Ka'aipū Ave. in Mānoa Valley District Park](#).



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Mahalo to our Outstanding Employees & Volunteers!



Booth District Park Makeover Team

Melchor Rezada

Mechanical Repairer
Maintenance Support Services

Vailima Watson

Volunteer
Kalihi Valley District Park

Show your appreciation for a great co-worker by nominating them as an Outstanding Employee. Fill out the [Nomination Form \(click here\)](#) and submit it to your supervisor!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Honolulu Botanical Gardens accreditation:** Our entire botanical garden system [was awarded a Level III Accreditation by Arbnet](#), the only global initiative to recognize gardens and arboreta. Awarded based on staff's horticultural, conservation, and recreation achievements, this designation allows the garden staff to further their collaborative efforts and access to a database of the world's woody plants. Congratulations!
- Red Cross Certification Award:** The American Red Cross recognized DPR and our Aquatics Program for [certifying over 200 people in life saving skills in 2018](#). For a city our size, this is a great achievement, as it puts O'ahu among the top 10 percent of training providers in our region.
- HONU Project:** This collaborative effort between DPR, HPD, the Office of Housing, and DCS resulted in a successful first phase of the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons](#) at Waipahū Cultural Garden. With nearly 300 people using this resource, and approximately 70% of them transitioning into shelter, the program is expected to progress from its first location to Old Stadium Park.
- Hiring Teenage Lifeguards:** DPR has successfully hired, and is now employing, the first non-adult, City staff as part-time lifeguards at our park pools and ocean recreation locations. This is hopefully improve out lifeguard availability, enabling us to provide more access to our well-used pools.
- Park Closure Hours Established:** [One'ula Beach Park in 'Ewa](#), [Kawaiku'i and Wailupe beach parks in 'Āina Haina](#) now have established closure hours from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. nightly. In particular, the nightly closure of One'ula will complement upcoming multi-million dollar park improvements projects, such as the park road repaving and irrigation system renovations.
- Ala Moana & Kaka'ako Park Improvements:** The People's Park (AMRP) is slated to be the first City park with all outdoor LED lights by this summer. [The project will convert 570 lights to be 60% more efficient and pay for itself in about 15 years through those energy savings](#). The 'Āina Moana (Magic Island) parking lot is slated to be repaved soon, and other large improvement projects are in the works with the approval of the Special Management Area permit (which removed plans for the dog park, inclusive playground, and some parking reorientation). Meanwhile, the first large revitalization efforts for the Kaka'ako parks are nearing completion, with the [repaving of two parking lots](#), improvements to the comfort stations, irrigation system, masonry, concrete spalling repairs, and tree trimming.

Kākou for Parks Program Updates:

Since 2015, Mayor Caldwell and DPR have continued to show dedication towards revitalizing some of our aging or damaged facilities through this one-of-a-kind program. This has resulted in improvements to **170 different parks** around O'ahu, including:



Ke'ehi Lagoon Park



Wai'alae Neighborhood Park



Melemanu Neighborhood Park

121

New & Refurbished Play Apparatus

111

Renovated Comfort Stations

351

Resurfaced Play Courts